

FCC REPORTS DESPIERTA AMERICA OCTOBER 1-15 PART I

10/01/09

US ECONOMY

VO: 19

The U.S. economy will be growing again by year end, but tight credit conditions for consumers and businesses will hamper the recovery, the International Monetary fund said as it raised its forecast for growth next year to 1.5 percent from 0.8 percent. The IMF also issued a warning about U.S. government finances, saying government debt "could become unsustainable" unless measures are taken to restrain deficits, and that President Obama and Congress should make sure health-care reform does not make deficits worse.

TX H1N1 DEATH

VO: 20

Doctors say it could be a long time before we know if an East Texas child's death was caused by the H1N1 virus. But, they're certainly leaning in that direction. 9-year-old Montrell Harris died Tuesday at a Dallas hospital, after testing positive for flu. Harris, who was a student at Jack Elementary in Tyler, also suffered from severe respiratory conditions.

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10/2/09

FLU VACCINE

VO: 29

The largest U.S. supplier of seasonal flu vaccines says it's running behind on shipping vaccine for the regular, seasonal flu partly because of the crunch to produce millions of doses of the swine flu vaccine. The pharmaceutical company Sanofi Pasteur says it has shipped more than half of the 50 million doses of seasonal flu vaccine order by U.S. health care providers. But the French company has sent notices to customers indicating that additional doses may be delayed. Company spokeswoman Donna Cary says it could be November before some customers get the rest of their orders.

US ECONOMY JOBLESS RATES

VO: 26

The unemployment rate rose to 9.8 percent in September as employers cut more jobs than expected, evidence that the longest recession since the 1930s is still inflicting widespread pain. The Labor Department says the nation's economy lost a net total of 263,000 jobs last month, up from a downwardly revised total of 201,000 in August.

CENSUS CAMPAIGN

LOURDES MELUZA - WASHINGTON, DC

PKG 2:03

U.S. Census Bureau Director Robert Groves joined prominent Latino groups, labor and faith leaders and leading national Spanish-language media partners today to outline a historic campaign to ensure a full and accurate 2010 Census count of the estimated 50 million Latinos living in the United States. Members of the coalition - called the Ya es Hora !HAGASE CONTAR! (It's Time, Make Yourself Count!) campaign - previewed a series of public service announcement that will begin airing today on major Spanish language media.

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10/5/09

OBAMA HEALTHCARE

VO: 24

President Barack Obama is rallying doctors at the White House today as his bid for a health care overhaul enters a key phase. The president is convinced doctors are the best advocates for reform, since they're direct witness to how broken and cruel the current system is. An aide says doctors know best that inaction is not an option. And Obama is hoping for key action this week, approval by the Senate Finance Committee of its overhaul bill.

SUPREME COURT NEW TERM**VO: 19**

The Supreme Court begins a new term Monday and new on the court is its first Hispanic woman Justice, Sonia Sotomayor. One thing court watchers will be looking for is whether her effervescent personality affects the court, and how. Two of the high-profile cases that probably will dominate the term include a challenge to limits on corporate spending in political campaigns and a lawsuit seeking to strike down local handgun bans in the Chicago area.

MELTDOWN BANKS**VO: 27**

A new report contends the credibility of the government's \$700 billion financial rescue program was damaged by claims a year ago that all of the initial banks receiving support were healthy. Special Inspector General Neil Barofsky generally finds the government acted properly in October 2008 as it scrambled to implement the Troubled Asset Relief Program to avert the collapse of the U.S. financial system.

MELTDOWN NURSING HOME CUTS**VO: 36**

The nation's nursing homes are perilously close to laying off workers, cutting services -- possibly even closing -- because of a perfect storm wallop from the recession and deep federal and state government spending cuts. Industry experts say a new Medicare rate adjustment will cut about \$16 billion from nursing homes over the next 10 years. That comes atop state-level cuts that already had the nation's 16,000 nursing homes reeling. Congress may also slash billions more in Medicare funds in the name of health care reform.

PREMATURE BIRTH**VO: 20**

A March of Dimes official calls it the "13 million baby question." Epidemiologist Christopher Howson is talking about how to tackle the growing problem of premature births around the world. While the proportion of all babies born too early is highest in Africa, it's followed closely by North America, where wealthy nations such as the United States have sophisticated neonatal intensive care units.

FLU VACCINES USA**VO: 24**

Healthcare workers in Indiana and Tennessee will be among the first to get swine flu vaccines in the United States Monday, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said. Vaccination clinics are scheduled for Monday morning for staff at Le Bonheur Children's Medical Center in Memphis, Tennessee and Wishard Health Services in Indianapolis, the CDC said.

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10/06/09

IMMIGRATION DETENTION REFORMS**VO: 22**

Former hotels, nursing homes and other sites could be used to hold immigrants who are not criminals or violent. According to documents obtained by The Associated Press, it's part of a larger plan to reform immigration detention proposed by the homeland security secretary.

HEATING COSTS

VO: 26

People who heat with natural gas may have a little extra money to burn this winter. The government says the winter heating bill should be about \$105 less than it was last winter. Households that use fuel oil, electric heat or propane will also be paying less than last year. It's partly because of lower fuel costs, and partly because of an expected milder winter.

HEALTHCARE OVERHAUL

VO: 16

The last congressional panel working on health care reform will have to wait a little longer before it's done. The Senate Finance Committee was supposed to meet today to vote on the \$900 billion overhaul package that it debated for two weeks. But it's still waiting for a final cost analysis from the Congressional Budget Office so the expectation now is that vote will take place tomorrow.

VACCINES FOR H1N1

VO: 20

The World Health Organization (WHO) restated its confidence in the H1N1 flu vaccine on Tuesday, calling it the most important tool against the pandemic. Mild adverse side effects such as muscle cramps or headache are to be expected in some cases, but everyone who has access to the vaccine should be inoculated, it said.

RETAIL SALES OUTLOOK

VO: 22

The usually bullish National Retail Federation isn't painting a rosy picture about holiday sales. The NRF predicts a 1 percent decline in total sales for November and December combined. The NRF is less optimistic this year than several other groups offering holiday sales forecasts. Consumers had already cut back during the fall back-to-school season.

VACCINE RAISES HOPE FOR COCAINE ADDICTED

VO: 18

A vaccine helped block the high felt by cocaine users in 38 percent of people who took it, U.S. researchers said on Monday, offering promise of a new approach to treating those addicted to the drug. The aim is to prevent cocaine's rewarding effects -- the high -- in order to reduce cravings that trigger drug relapses.

U.S. SCHOOLS DO A LITTLE BETTER TRIMMING JUNK FOOD

VO: 26

U.S. schools are doing a little better to limit the amount of junk food students can buy in vending machines or elsewhere, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said on Monday. The CDC's survey of middle- and high-school principals in 40 U.S. states found that the number of schools limiting carbonated soft drinks was a median of 63 percent in 2008. That compared to 38 percent in 2006.

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10/07/09

OBAMA POLL

VO: 27

Most people still think the country is headed in the wrong direction but a new poll says there are more optimists than before and President Barack Obama's numbers are also on the upswing. An

Associated Press-GfK poll says 56 percent of those surveyed in the past week approve of Obama's job performance, up from 50 percent in September. It's the first time since he took office in January that his rating has gone up. And those who disapprove of Obama are down to 39 percent, down from 49 percent last month.

ARPAIO AGREEMENT

CRISTINA PUIG. SATELLITE ROOM

PKG 1:56 & VO: 24

An Arizona sheriff known for aggressively cracking down on illegal immigration has been stripped of some of his special power to enforce federal immigration law, and he claims the Obama administration is taking away his authority for political reasons. Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio, whose office faces racial profiling allegations over crime and immigration sweeps in some heavily Latino areas of metro Phoenix, said officials from Washington won't let him renew a deal that let his deputies make federal immigration arrests.

DETENTION CENTER

LOURDES MELUZA. WASHINGTON, DC

PKG 2:12

The United States, criticized for holding illegal immigrants in overcrowded and poorly run jails, Tuesday announced plans to convert hotels to detain some noncriminal immigrants. Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano said illegal immigrants ranging from criminals to newly arrived asylum seekers would be held in different facilities according to the risk they pose. Referring to noncriminals such as newly arrived asylum seekers, Napolitano said, "We will begin efforts to house these populations near immigration service providers and pursue different options like converted hotels or residential facilities for their detention."

HEALTH CARE REFORM

VO: 27

The Senate Finance Committee could receive some numbers it has been waiting for today. The Congressional Budget Office could let committee Chairman Max Baucus know how much the health care reform package that his committee hammered out will cost. Numerous changes will likely bring the cost to around \$900 billion over ten years. Congressional tax experts say the proposed legislation would require health care industries to pay \$121 billion in taxes over ten years -- about \$29 billion more than originally thought. Finance Committee Republicans have been arguing the measure contains too many new taxes.

POLL HEALTH CARE

VO: 27

A new poll suggests public opinion on health care legislation is now an even split and a solid gain for Democrats after September results showed 49 percent opposed. The latest Associated Press-GfK poll has found that the opposition to Obama's health care remake dropped dramatically in just a matter of weeks. Still, Americans remain divided over the complex legislation. The poll finds the public is now split 40-40. In September, only 34 percent of those polled supported the effort. Anger about health care boiled over during August town hall meetings.

AGE DISCRIMINATION

VO : 24

Democrats want to counter a recent Supreme Court ruling that makes it harder for older workers to prove they are the victims of age discrimination. The Senate Judiciary Committee is hearing testimony Wednesday on a bill that would effectively nullify a high court decision that changed the interpretation of age bias laws. The high court said it is not enough for employees to show age is a motivating factor in a demotion or layoff. Rather, workers must prove it is the deciding factor.

FLU/VACCINE-SEBELIUS

VO :24

U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius Wednesday sought to dispel fears about the H1N1 swine flu vaccine, declaring it safe and urging parents to take precautions against the pandemic. Sebelius was seeking to ease worries about the vaccine to target the new strain of influenza that is spreading around the world and she urged the public to visit flu.gov for more information. Sebelius said it was important to protect the more vulnerable population such as children and pregnant women from the H1N1 flu.

WEIGHT A FACTOR IN HOSPITAL ADMISSION

VO: 16

Overweight or underweight children who are seen in the emergency department are more likely to be admitted to the hospital, and to stay longer, than normal-weight youngsters, according to a study reported Monday at the American College of Emergency Physicians' annual meeting in Boston. "The bottom line is, like anything else, being in the middle (weight) range is best," Dr. Adam Singer from the State University of New York at Stony Brook told Reuters Health.KIDS.

GAY MARIAGE

VO: 29

Even opponents say a gay marriage bill introduced in the nation's capital today seems nearly certain to pass. But the question is: if the measure passes the District of Columbia city council, will it still become law in the District of Columbia? That's because Congress gets to review all D.C. legislation before it takes effect. But, in July, D.C. began recognizing same-sex marriages performed elsewhere. Congress had its chance to act on that legislation, but didn't. If the new bill becomes law, D.C. will follow Massachusetts, Connecticut, Iowa and Vermont in issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples. New Hampshire starts issuing them in January.

BREAST CANCER

VO: 21

Women who never got mammograms are far more likely to die of breast cancer than women who are regularly screened, U.S. researchers reported Tuesday. They said 75 percent of the women they studied who died of breast cancer had never had a mammogram, or were diagnosed after their very first mammogram. Only 25 percent of the women they studied who died of breast cancer had received more than one mammogram.

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10/08/09

BUDGET DEFICIT

VO: 30

Congressional analysts say the federal budget deficit tripled to a record \$1.4 trillion for the 2009 fiscal year that ended last week. The unprecedented flood of red ink flows from several factors, including a big drop in tax revenues due to the recession, \$245 billion in emergency spending on the Wall Street bailout and the takeover of mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. Then there is almost \$200 billion in costs from President Barack Obama's economic stimulus bill. The previous record deficit was \$459 billion and was set just last year. Obama has attributed the nation's dismal fiscal situation to the financial and economic crises he inherited.

SENATE HEALTH BILL \$829 BILLION

VO: 21

Health care legislation drafted by a key Senate committee would expand coverage to 94 percent of all eligible Americans at a 10-year cost of \$829 billion, congressional budget experts said Wednesday, a preliminary estimate trumpeted by the White House and likely to power the measure past a major hurdle within days. The Congressional Budget Office added that the legislation would reduce federal deficits by \$81 billion over a decade and probably lead to "continued reductions in federal" red ink in the years beyond.

IMMIGRATION NO MATCH

VO: 21

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) today formally issued a final rule rescinding the Social Security "no match" rule. The "no match" rule, which was never implemented, would have forced employers to fire workers based on discrepancies in their Social Security records. DHS first announced its plan to rescind the rule in July, and with today's publication of a final rule in the Federal Register, the rescission will go into effect in 30 days.

US RETAIL SALES

VO: 26

The number of new claims for jobless benefits falls to the lowest level since early January, as employers cut fewer workers. The Labor Department says first-time claims for unemployment insurance dropped last week to a seasonally adjusted 521,000, from the previous week's upwardly revised total of 554,000. That's better than the 540,000 that Wall Street economists expected, according to a survey by Thomson Reuters. The drop is the fourth in five weeks. The four-week average, which smooths fluctuations, fell to 539,750, the lowest since Jan. 17. The number of people continuing to claim benefits declined by 72,000 to 6.04 million. Analysts expected continuing claims to rise slightly.

YOUTH VIOLENCE EPIDEMIC

LUIS MEGID/ SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

PKG 1:48

US Attorney General Eric Holder and Education Secretary Arne Duncan made a trip to Chicago to meet with city leaders to discuss youth violence in the wake of the beating death of 16-year-old Derrion Albert. Holder says youth violence is an American problem and not just a Chicago problem. He says the nation was shocked at the violence on the video that captured Albert's fatal beating.

SICK DAY H1N1

VO: 26

With a vaccine for the H1N1 virus still some time away, the lack of paid sick leave for almost half of all working Americans in the private sector is a potential public health crisis. Not only are these working adults likely to show up at work with potential infectious symptoms - or fear losing their job - they are likely to send sick kids to school for the same reason. Nationwide, the same trend holds: The proportions of workers without paid leave are higher in lower-wage industries, including food service, nursing care, and retail workers.

CANCER MICROCHIP

VO: 22

A Review of the Literature 1990-2006," is a definitive review of research showing a causal link between implanted radio-frequency (RFID) microchip transponders and cancer in laboratory rodents and dogs. It was written in part to correct industry misstatements and misinformation circulating about the studies. The report evaluates eleven articles previously published in toxicology and pathology journals. In six of the articles, between 0.8% and 10.2% of laboratory mice and rats developed malignant tumors around or adjacent to the microchips. Two additional articles reported microchip-related cancer in dogs. See Original Research Articles section below for details.

ANTIBIOTICS IN THE ER: IT'S OFTEN ONE-SIZE-FITS ALL

VO: 26

Doctors who work in hospital emergency rooms rarely adjust antibiotic doses for obese patients, who can lead to inadequate treatment and fuel antibiotic resistance, according to research reported Tuesday at the American College of Emergency Physicians annual meeting in Boston. "For certain antibiotics, people who are larger require a larger dose to get and maintain the proper concentration that will reliably kill the bacteria we're trying to get at," study co-researcher

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10/09/09

FORECLOSURE AID

VO: 32

A government watchdog says the Obama administration's effort to help homeowners avoid foreclosure may not achieve its goal of helping up to 4 million borrowers and may not be enough to dampen the impact of the foreclosure crisis on the economy.

HEALTHCARE TARGET WOMEN

VO: 26

The White House and top Democrats, intensifying their push to build support for their party's health overhaul proposals, are increasingly targeting women, a politically crucial group with strong opinions on health care that polls suggest has yet to be sold on the changes.

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10/12/09

HEALTHCARE OVERHAUL

VO: 24

After working for months behind the scenes to help shape health care reform, the insurance industry is now sharply attacking the emerging plan with a report that maintains Senate legislation would increase the cost of a typical policy by hundreds, or even thousands, of dollars a year.

SWINE FLU LATEST

BLANCA ROSA VILCHEZ - NEW YORK

PKG 2:12

A top U.S. health official says the risks from not getting the swine flu vaccine are greater than any potential risks associated with the vaccine. Dr. Anne Schuchat of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says she's surprised by all the misinformation going around about the new vaccine. She says a good safety record from past vaccines bodes well for the swine flu vaccine now becoming available.

SUMMERS ON ECONOMY

VO: 29

U.S. President Barack Obama's top economic adviser said Monday the United States is on the path toward economic recovery, conditions in financial markets are steadier and there have been initial signs of stabilization in the housing market.

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10/13/09

HEALTHCARE REFORM LATEST

LOURDES DEL RIO - MIAMI, FLORIDA

PKG 2:00

The health insurance industry is striking back against the Senate's current plan for health care reform claiming that the plan will not only fail to reduce costs but will actually increase the cost of coverage for the privately-insured by thousands of dollars a year. Over the weekend America's Health Insurance Plans, an industry trade group, released to its members a ice water house Coopers analysis which projected that the current Senate legislation would cause premiums for families to increase by \$4000 by the year 2019

IMMIGRATION REFORM BILL PREVIEW
JAIME GARCIA - LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA
PKG 2:02

Hispanic lawmakers in the House are writing an immigration reform bill that will outline the minority community's position before the debate begins in Congress. The House and Senate are not expected to take up comprehensive immigration reform until next year, but those involved in writing the bill say the legislation being prepared by Rep. Luis Gutierrez, D-Ill., will lay down a marker on what is expected. Members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus are behind the effort to lay a legislative blueprint.

STIMULUS JOBS
VO: 32

State officials say President Barack Obama's \$787 billion stimulus plan has spared tens of thousands of teachers from losing their jobs. The national data won't be available until later this month. But based on preliminary information obtained by The Associated Press from a handful of states, teachers appear to have benefited most from early spending. That's because the stimulus sent billions of dollars to help stabilize state budgets, sparing what officials say would have teacher layoffs.

HOSPITAL RADIATION OVERDOSES
VO: 20

Hospital officials say a computer-resetting error caused radiation overdoses for 206 patients who underwent CT scans at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center. In a written statement Monday, hospital officials said "a misunderstanding about an embedded default setting applied by the machine" resulted in a higher than expected amount of radiation. Officials say the 206 patients received eight times the normal dose of radiation -- an error that went undetected for 18 months. A hospital spokesman says about 40 percent of the patients lost patches of hair as a result.

INSURANCE FAT BABIES
VO: 21

A Colorado insurance company is changing its attitude about fat babies. Rocky Mountain Health Plans said Monday it will no longer consider obesity a "pre-existing condition" barring coverage for hefty infants.

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10/14/09

HEALTHCARE REFORM LATEST
VO / SOT :45

Small neighborhood banks and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce are overshadowing the nation's biggest banks in influencing lawmakers as Congress begins the initial phase of its long-awaited overhaul of how the government regulates financial companies. The House Financial Services Committee on Wednesday is taking up key elements of President Barack Obama's proposal for correcting the practices of banks, investment houses and other financial institutions that caused last year's economic collapse.

IMMIGRATION AGING CHILDREN
VO: 21

A federal judge has ruled that adult children who turn 21 while waiting for family-sponsored green cards have to wait anew once they "age out" of their parents' applications. U.S. District Judge James Selna ruled in Los Angeles against a group of immigrants with green cards who sued the federal government, arguing a 2002 law means grown children should be allowed into the country when their parents file new paperwork on their behalf.

US ECONOMY SURVEY

VO: 30

The worst U.S. recession since the Great Depression has ended, but weak household spending as the labor market struggles to create jobs will slow the pace of the economy's recovery, according to a survey released Monday. The survey of 44 professional forecasters released by the National Association for Business Economics, also known as the NABE, found that 80 percent of the respondents believed the economy was growing again after four straight quarters of declines.

FORD RECALL

VO: 23

Ford issued the largest single recall in its history Tuesday as drivers of an additional 4.5 million vehicles were alerted about a fire hazard from a faulty switch. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said this was the eighth recall, involving a total of 16 million Ford Motor (F, Fortune 500) vehicles, concerning the cruise control deactivation switch manufactured by Texas Instruments (TXN, Fortune 500). The faulty switch can leak hydraulic fluid, overheat, smoke and then burn, and risks causing a fire even when the ignition is turned off, parked and unattended, the NHTSA said.

MANDATORY FLU VACCINATION

VO: 19

Tuesday that the state health commissioner withdraw a new regulation requiring hundreds of thousands of health care workers to get both seasonal and swine flu vaccinations. In testimony before several State Assembly committees in Lower Manhattan, Donna Lieberman, executive director of the civil liberties union, said that the requirement violated the constitutional right of health care workers to control their bodies and their medical treatment.

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10/15/09

SOCIAL SECURITY COLA: ANNOUNCEMENT

VO: 27

Senior citizens get the bad news officially today from the Social Security Administration: no COLA next year. It will be the first year without a cost of living increase since automatic adjustments were adopted in 1975. The reason is the absence of inflation thanks to the recession. The announcement comes as President Barack Obama and key members of Congress call for a second round of \$250 payments to more than 50 million seniors, veterans, retired railroad workers and people with disabilities. The payments would be equal to about a 2 percent increase for the average Social Security recipient. The cost: \$13 billion.

SWINE FLU VACCINE KIDS DOUBLE DOSES

VO: 28

Test results of its swine flu vaccine suggest that children under 10 are likely to need two shots to be fully protected, vaccine maker Sanofi Pasteur said Wednesday. Federal officials said the news is not surprising, since this age group needs two doses of regular seasonal flu vaccine the very first time they ever are given a flu vaccine for full immunity to develop. The new Sanofi results back up what government tests are showing, said Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. For younger children, the protection from one shot is "modest but not sufficient to allow for one dose to do the trick," he said.